

NOV 04 1999

8 MR. RYNNE: My name is Richard Rynne. I'm a local
9 auto mechanic, and I thought I would voice a few words of
10 opinion.

11 The only experience I have with nuclear
12 energy, waste, and things like that, I was with FEMA for a
13 short while in Louisiana. I took a course on emergency
14 management for nuclear waste, and it was only a two-week
15 course.

16 A couple of things that are interesting
17 about nuclear waste, I thought I would bring to the public
18 while I'm here, is that the half-life goes anywhere from
19 25,000 years to 125,000 years. When you talk half-life,
20 that means the amount of radiation that you are getting
21 from 235, 238 plutonium is one-half. So it's an ongoing
22 thing. So that can be deceiving.

23 A suggestion that right now -- another thing
24 that I understand, if I'm correct, is that all the spent
25 fuel rods out of the nuclear waste plants, which are the

1

1 highly enriched and most dangerous, are kept in a swimming
2 pool area. They are submerged in water. Because right
3 now the -- after they pull them out, the temperature is a
4 certain level. But after awhile, the pellets start to heat
5 up. So that's why they keep them in water.

6 At one time they used to break it up, put it
7 in glass pellets, put them in barrels, and dump them in the
8 ocean at one time. But they found that they broke up and
9 there was radiation from it. It's a real problem, and
10 something has to be dealt with.

11 They have one site in New Mexico they have
12 approved already and that is a site for nuclear waste right
13 now. It's in a salt mine. It's very, very deep. And then
1 14 the place out by the test site. If I understand correctly,
15 this meeting is -- the number one concern too is if they do
16 have transportation, the threats to the community, and
17 routes are real important, make sure that they are not
18 public routes.

5 19 Another thing I heard on the radio this last
20 night, this morning, is that people in Reno are highly
21 against any transportation of nuclear waste through their
22 area. That's something I heard on the radio, and pass it
23 on.

2 24 Another thing is I don't -- looking at the
25 situation, if they bury nuclear waste deep in caverns,

2 (continued)

1 these drilled mine holes that they have, the big complaint
2 is earthquakes, and that is a serious thought, because if
3 they have earthquakes and water gets into the area, then
4 the water can migrate into aquifers, which could migrate
5 down to Death Valley and other areas, especially expanding
6 Las Vegas. So all of this is a real high concern.

7 One idea I had is that -- and I don't know
8 why -- is that if they were to surface-bury the material at
9 a certain level, instead of going so deep, the threat of
10 aquifers becomes less. I don't know why they are not doing
11 that, instead going down 30 feet and spreading over a large
12 field.

13 One thing about radiation we learned, the
14 only thing to protect yourself against radiation, gamma
15 rays especially, is mass. You have to have so much
16 material. It was like six inches of steel, two foot of
17 water, three foot of dirt. So mass is important to protect
18 yourself from radiation, is another thing I learned.

2 (continued)

19 So all of this stuff, if they don't
20 concentrate it, they break it up, and they don't bury it so
21 deep so it can get into the water levels. That's the
22 biggest threat is getting it into the water.

3

23 And another main concern is, like the fellow
24 said, is if they have an accident. We have to assume that
25 an accident will occur, and who is going to take care of

3 (continued)

1 it? I know HAZMAT, they have federal agencies that -- I
2 worked in the trucking business for a while, and they
3 carried hazardous materials, and we had special numbers for
4 HAZMAT to come out, and they would prepare to deal with
5 it. So I'm sure they will have people to deal with it.
6 But the question of the taxpayers' responsibility for
7 private industry is another question to be answered. Why
8 should the taxpayer be hit with that judgment? You know
9 and I know that we will be. That's part of what goes on.
10 It's very serious.

6

11 One last concern is we have to look at
12 children down there at Lo-Inyo. They are the ones that are
13 going to inherit this world for us. The best -- what we
14 can do to preserve the better quality in life, that should
15 be our concern. How is the future going to be ready for
16 them?

4 (continues on
page 5)

17 So we have to deal with this problem, and
18 the only suggestion I say is that I wouldn't like to see
19 the trucks that are hauling the high radiation waste
20 through Lone Pine at all. That's my personal opinion. I
21 don't want to see that. If at all possible, to take routes
22 that are way away from even the smallest towns. Even if
23 they had to make routes, might be a consideration, to make
24 certain routes.

25 But right now, all that radiation, that

1 spent fuel, is at all those nuclear plants throughout the
2 country. We, as a nation, are responsible for dealing with
3 this. We accepted it, and we have to do something about
4 (continued) 4 it. So I just hope we can come up with a good idea. And
5 I'm against them traveling through on 395.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. SKIPPER: Thank you for your comments.

8 THE FACILITATOR: Is there anybody else who would
9 like to comment at this time?

10 The comment period will remain open until
11 three o'clock. I guess we will take a recess at this
12 point. If anybody either arrives to make a comment or
13 someone here would like to make a further comment, just
14 contact me. We can reconvene, and the court reporter will
15 be prepared to record your comment. So we'll take a recess
16 until three. Thanks very much.

17 (A recess was taken.)

18 THE FACILITATOR: We are going to reconvene the
19 afternoon session here in Lone Pine, California.

20 I would ask if there are any other members
21 of the public who wish to speak? Hearing no one, we
22 officially adjourn the afternoon session.

23 (Afternoon session adjourned.)

24 \\
25 \\
6